

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03543 191615Z

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 /033 W

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O 191530Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1274

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T JIDDA 3543

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

CAIRO FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERN AT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S STATEMENT;
VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF STATE 115497

1. BBC HAS CARRIED REPORT THAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER HAS SAID WE WOULD USE "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND EVEN MILITARY" MEANS TO BREAK ANOTHER OIL BOYCOTT.

2. SAUDIS ARE CONCERNED AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ASKED US FOR TEXT OF THE STATEMENT. THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR ASKED TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER. THE KUWAITI SAID, AND I PRESUME HE WAS REFLECTING THE VIEWS HE HAD JUST HEARD, THAT WE WOULD BE VERY MISTAKEN IF WE THOUGHT THIS REVIVAL OF THE INVASION THREATS WOULD HELP OIL PRICES OR THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE AREA. THE KUWAITI SAID THE TIMING WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE AND ASKED IF WE WERE DETERMINED TO LOSE ALL OUR MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS OR IF SCHLESINGER WERE DELIBERATELY SABOTAGING THE PEACE EFFORTS. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT HE WAS OVER-REACTING; SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD SAID NOTHING NEW.

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EM WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF IT IS CAUSE-AND-EFFECT
BUT THE VISIT OF SECRETARY ROBINSON WITH CROWN PRINCE
FAHD WHICH HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH ROYAL PROTOCOL AND
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WAS WAITING ONLY THE FIXING OF
EXACT TIME IS NOW UP IN THE AIR AGAIN. CHIEF OF
ROYAL PROTOCOL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER IN RIYADH THAT
NO RPT NO APPOINTMENT WOULD BE SET; WE SHOULD CALL
AFTER ROBINSON ARRIVES AND PROTOCOL WILL "SEE WHAT
PRINCE'S SCHEDULE FOR DAY LOOKS LIKE."

4. WE ARE CALLING TO FAHD'S ATTENTION SECRETARY'S
PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE MEETING (REFTEL) AND BELIEVE
THAT ONCE UNDER SECRETARY IS HERE, THINGS CAN BE WORKED
OUT. IN ANY CASE, UNDER SECRETARY SHOULD COME AS
SCHEDULED. MEETING WITH ABA AL-KHAYL IS NOW SET FOR
0900 MAY 21.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND US TEXT OF
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ON OUR RESPONSE TO NEW
OIL BOYCOTT.
AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL APPARENTLY INCORRECT.

SECRET

NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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